Safe drinking water supply

2791. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission in its report for Tenth Five Year Plan, has estimated that 70 to 80 per cent of diseases are water borne;

(b) if so, the details of Government's plans to supply germ free potable water to every house; and

(c) whether Government endorse the action of State Government of Delhi in privatisation of water supply?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Tenth Five Year Plan document indicates that water borne diseases to the extent of 70-80% are related to water contamination and poor sanitation.

(b) "Water, that is to say, water supplies" falls within the jurisdiction of the legislative powers of the State Governments *vide* item 17 of the List II-State List under Seventh Schedule referred to in the Article 246(3) of the Constitution. However, Ministry of Urban Development is providing assistance to the State Governments under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) for water supply projects in small towns with a population upto 20,000 as per 1991/2001 census. The Central assistance for water supply projects is restricted to 50% of the approved estimated project cost while the balance cost is borne by the State Governments/urban local bodies. The proposed National Urban Renewal Mission (NURM) alongwith Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), as and when launched, will also cover water supply projects among the infrastructure projects for all urban areas of the country.

(c) There is no proposal to privatize water supply by Government of NCT of Delhi.